

SENATE RESOLUTION 259

By Marrero B

A RESOLUTION urging the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to disapprove the request to import and dispose of low-level radioactive waste from Italy in this country.

WHEREAS, the disposal of nuclear waste has been an ongoing concern throughout the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the processing and disposal of nuclear waste in Tennessee is a matter of particular concern to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, on the eve of the Barnwell facility closing to the nation this coming summer, the importation, processing, and disposal of foreign radioactive waste is a cause for genuine alarm not only in Tennessee, but across the nation; and

WHEREAS, EnergySolutions, Inc., of Utah, which, among other things, operates the Barnwell facility and several processing facilities in Tennessee, is seeking approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to import twenty thousand (20,000) tons of low-level and intermediate level radioactive waste from Italy through Charleston or New Orleans for processing and disposal in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Italy, which currently stores its radioactive waste at nuclear power plants and other sites throughout Italy, has no permanent repository for this waste, has four closed nuclear power stations and other nuclear facilities with low and intermediate level radioactive waste, and for a number of years has been unable to construct a waste disposal facility due to strong citizen opposition; and

WHEREAS, the approval being sought from the United States for disposition of twenty thousand (20,000) tons of Italy's radioactive waste, which equates to approximately one million (1,000,000) cubic feet, is believed to represent a substantial percentage of the waste temporarily stored in Italy; and

WHEREAS, transporting tons of nuclear waste through Tennessee acerbates problems our State has struggled with for decades and raises concerns over the potential danger to the people and environment of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, should this waste be imported, it would undoubtedly be incinerated in Oak Ridge and would likely be otherwise processed in Oak Ridge and Memphis, giving off routine radioactive emissions and creating more waste; and

WHEREAS, importation of foreign waste is a practice Tennessee must strongly resist and the United States must stand firmly against. As a nation we have our own challenges in disposing of the nuclear waste generated in this country, and it is incumbent upon us to insist that other countries take responsibility for their own nuclear waste and not attempt to utilize the United States as a dumping ground; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Senate opposes the importation, processing, and disposal of radioactive waste from Italy and the transportation of this waste through the State for the disposal of such waste in this country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we strongly urge the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to disapprove the request to import and dispose of low-level radioactive waste from Italy in this country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be prepared and sent to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation and to Dale Klein, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.